

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS/LISTING OF CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain(s) under examination in the application is presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A self-propelled operator-carrying vehicular sod laying machine for supporting, transporting, placing and unrolling sod rolls upon a surface comprising:

a frame having a forward end, a rearward end, a left side, and a right side;

a plurality of wheels mounted to the frame for rolling transport of the frame along a surface, wherein the wheels include at least one rear idler caster wheel assembly affixed proximate the rearward end of the frame, a first front wheel located proximate the forward end at the right side, a second front wheel located proximate the forward end at the left side, the first front wheel and the second front wheel being adapted to define an axis of the front wheels; a front wheel being located proximate the forward end at the right side, a front wheel being located proximate the forward end at the left side and at least one rear idler caster wheel assembly affixed proximate the frame rearward end;

a left wheel box frame affixed to the first front wheel and a right wheel box frame affixed to the second front wheel;

a pair of generally parallel, laterally displaceable elongated arms including a first arm actuated by a vehicle-powered means and a second arm actuated by a vehicle-powered means, the first arm and the second arm disposed between the front wheels and extending forwardly from the ~~frame~~ forward end of the frame, each of the arms the first arm and second arm each having a roll end and a pivot end, the pivot end being pivotably attached to the frame to pivot on an axis parallel to the axis of the front wheels to cause vertical displacement of the roll end of the arms;

wherein the lateral displacement between the arms ~~being variable~~ is adjustable to operator-selectable distances by operator actuation of a the vehicle-powered means for lateral

simultaneous movement of ~~one~~ the first arm together with a the left wheel box frame, and ~~means~~ for lateral simultaneous movement of the ~~other~~ second arm with a the right wheel box frame ~~and a front drive wheel being affixed to each box frame.;~~

A a sod roll supporting shaft attachable to the roll ends of the arms; and

A a drive system for rotating the front wheels and pivoting the arms to vary ~~varying~~ the lateral displacement of the arms ~~and rotating the front wheels.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The sod laying machine defined in claim 1, further comprising an operator control station proximate the forward end of the frame, the control station including controls for pivoting the arms for vertical movement of the ~~forward~~ roll ends, controls for lateral movement of the arms to vary the distance between the arms and controls for the speed and direction of the wheel rotating drive system.

3. (Previously Presented) The sod laying machine defined in claim 2, wherein the operator control station is further comprised of an operator-carrying seat.

4. (Currently Amended) The sod laying machine defined in claim 3, further comprising a hydraulic drive means for laterally displacing the first arm relative to the second arm ~~arms~~ to accommodate a plurality of sod roll widths.

5. (Previously Presented) The sod laying machine defined in claim 4, wherein the drive means for pivoting the arms is comprised of a hydraulic cylinder.

6. (Previously Presented) The sod laying machine defined in claim 4, wherein the drive means for rotating the wheels is comprised of independently controllable hydraulic motors rotatably attached to the front wheels.

7. (Previously Presented) A self-propelled operator-carrying vehicular sod laying machine for supporting, transporting, placing and unrolling sod rolls upon a surface comprising:

- a frame having a forward end, a rearward end, a left side and a right side;

- a plurality of wheels mounted to the frame for rolling transport of the frame along a surface, a front wheel being located proximate the forward end at the right side, a front wheel being located proximate the forward end at the left side, and at least one rear idler caster wheel affixed proximate the frame rearward end;

- a pair of generally parallel, laterally displaceable elongated arms disposed between the front wheels and extending forwardly from the frame forward end, each of the arms having a roll end and a pivot end, the pivot end being pivotably attached to the frame to pivot on an axis parallel to the axis of the front wheels to cause vertical displacement of the roll end of the arms;

- a sod roll supporting shaft attachable to the roll ends of the arms;

- a hydraulic drive system for laterally displacing the arms;

- a hydraulic actuator for pivoting the arms;

- a left drive wheel hydraulic drive motor rotatably linked exclusively to the left front wheel;

- a right drive wheel hydraulic drive motor rotatably linked exclusively to the right front wheel; and

an operator control station proximate the forward end of the frame, the control station including controls for pivoting the arms for vertical movement of the forward ends, controls for lateral movement of the arms to vary the distance between the arms, controls for independently controlling the speed and direction of rotation of each drive wheel and an operator-carrying seat.

8. (Previously Presented) The sod laying machine defined in claim 7, wherein the drive means for rotating the wheels is continuously variable speed hydraulic motors.

9. (Previously Presented) The sod laying machine defined in claim 8, wherein each rear wheel is further comprised of an idler caster wheel assembly.

10. (Previously Presented) The sod laying machine defined in claim 9, wherein the drive means for rotating the wheels has a multiplicity of drive speeds including higher speeds for sod roll transport and lower speeds for sod roll placement.

11. (Previously Presented) The sod laying machine of claim 8, wherein the drive means for rotating the wheels has a multiplicity of drive speeds including higher speeds for sod roll transport and lower speeds for sod roll placement.

12. (Previously Presented) The sod laying machine defined in claim 7, further comprising at least two rear wheels that are idler caster wheels.

13. (Previously Presented) The sod laying machine of claim 12, wherein the drive means for rotating the wheels has a multiplicity of drive speeds including higher speeds for sod roll transport and lower speeds for sod roll placement.

14. (Previously Presented) The sod laying machine of claim 13, wherein the left drive wheel is rotatably affixed to a left box frame member and the right drive wheel is rotatably affixed to a right box frame member, the box frame members extending forward from the frame, and each box frame member being linked to an arm so that the distance between the drive wheels and the distance between the arms may be varied simultaneously by actuating of a single hydraulic cylinder.

15. (Previously Presented) The sod laying machine of claim 14, wherein a fluid tank is formed within a box frame member.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for making a self-propelled, operator-carrying vehicular sod laying machine for supporting, transporting, placing and unrolling sod rolls upon a surface comprising the scope of:

forming a frame having a forward end, a rearward end, a left side and a right side;

rotatably mounting a plurality of wheels to the frame for rolling transport of the frame along a surface, a front wheel being located proximate the forward end at the right side, a front wheel being located proximate the forward end at the left side and at least one rear wheel being located proximate the rearward end;

forming a pair of elongated arms, each with a roll end and a pivot end,

pivotably mounting to the frame, the pair of generally parallel, laterally displaceable, spaced-apart, elongated arms between the front wheels and extending each of the arms forwardly from the frame forward end, the pivot being pivotable on an axis parallel to the axis of the front wheels to cause vertical displacement of the roll end of the arms;

removeably attaching a sod roll supporting shaft to the roll ends of the arms;

operably attaching a hydraulic actuator for laterally displacing the arms;

operably attaching a hydraulic actuator for pivoting the arms;

installing a left drive wheel hydraulic drive motor rotatably linked exclusively to the left front wheel;

installing a right drive wheel hydraulic drive motor rotatably linked exclusively to the left front wheel;

installing an operator control station proximate the forward end of the frame, the control station including controls for pivoting the arms from vertical movement of the forward ends, controls for lateral movement of the arms to vary the distance between the arms, controls for independently controlling the speed and direction of rotation of each drive wheel, and an operator-carrying seat; and

linking the box beam members to which the drive wheel assemblies are attached so as to adjust the separation between the front drive wheels simultaneously with adjustment of the arm spacing.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of installing continuously variable speed hydraulic front wheel drive motors.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of installing an idler caster wheel at the rearward portion of the frame.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of installing a rear wheel rocking beam fitted with a ground-contacting idler caster wheel assembly proximate each end, the rocking beam being pivotable on an axis generally perpendicular to the axis of the front wheels to facilitate vertical displacement of the rear wheels.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of installing wide floatation tires at the front driving wheels.